UNITED
NATIONS

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General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/51/537
S/1996/867
22 October 1996

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-first session
Agenda items 81 and 145
REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING
OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY
UNITED NATIONS DECADE OF
INTERNATIONAL LAW

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-first year

Letter dated 21 October 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon the instructions of my Government, I have the honour to transmit the attached statement by the Verkhovna Rada (Parliament) of Ukraine of 18 October 1996, in response to the adoption on 16 October 1996 by the State Duma of the Russian Federation of a bill, on its first reading, entitled "On the cessation of the division of the Black Sea Fleet".

I also request that the text of the present letter and the attached statement by the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine of 18 October 1996 be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 81 and 145, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Anatoli M. ZLENKO
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of
Ukraine to the United Nations

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ANNEX

Statement by the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine
of 18 October 1996

On 16 October 1996, the State Duma of the Russian Federation adopted on first reading the bill entitled "On the cessation of the division of the Black Sea Fleet". Thus, an attempt is being undertaken to expand the jurisdiction of the Russian Federation over the City of Sevastopol.

The consideration of this bill was an action of unconcealed anti-Ukrainian intent. The Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine considers this action a gross violation of the basic norms of international law, an encroachment on Ukraine's sovereignty and as yet another territorial claim against Ukraine by the lower chamber of the legislative branch of the Russian Federation. This action threatens both the vital interests of Ukraine and the negotiations on the division of the Black Sea Fleet, as well as the prospects of concluding a comprehensive treaty on friendship and cooperation between Ukraine and the Russian Federation.

The Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine calls the attention of the international community and of the States that provided the security assurances to Ukraine to the fact that this is not the first time that the Russian State Duma is playing a destabilizing role in the region, violating its stability and security, and creating by its decisions a situation which can lead to unpredictable consequences.

The Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine warns that, in the event the aforementioned bill is ultimately passed and signed, it will be forced, in accordance with Ukraine's Constitution, to demand the immediate withdrawal of the Russian Fleet from Ukrainian territory.

At the same time, the Verkhovna Rada hopes that the legislators of the Russian Federation will demonstrate a sense of realism and reasonableness and will not allow the worsening of relations between our nations and peoples.